

FILE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION X

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE
422 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83702



THIS DRAFT LETTER WAS SENT TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE 6/5/91 BY ARBITER

June 5, 1991

Bert Doughty
Cyprus Thompson Creek
P.O. Box 62
Clayton, Idaho 83227

Dear Mr. Doughty:

I have reviewed your letter dated May 21, 1991, in which you have requested approval to modify the source water which is discharged from outfall 002. This modification involves the pit water which is currently pumped to the tailings pond. Because of a depressed market, you are shutting down the milling operation from May 1 to November 1, 1991. Under this operating mode, the tailings pond would overtop from excess water. To prevent this from happening, you would like to divert the pit water to the Pat Hughes drainage which discharges through outfall 002.

The current effluent limitations for outfall 002 are based on water quality considerations and not effluent guidelines. Because of this, we are not able to officially approve this change until we process an application from you to permit modification. We do agree that your proposed action would be a better option.

If you provide the following information, we will be able to review your request: pH and the effluent quality for one month after the modification is implemented; a representative sample of the effluent discharge; the effluent quality for one month after the modification is implemented; the need to know the effluent quality for one month after the modification is implemented; and the need to know the effluent quality for one month after the modification is implemented.

This is a draft letter. It is not intended to be used as a final decision. It is only for your information. Don Gibbins, Regional Administrator, Region X, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Boise, Idaho. Your request for a modification of the effluent limitations for outfall 002 was received on May 21, 1991. The quality of the pit water after the modification was stabilized, and an explanation of the reason for the modification (such as stated in your letter referenced above.)